

# HHC, 312th MI

## Headhunter Newsletter

### June 1, 2004

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#### **Commander and 1SG Notes**

Hello from Victory North, Baghdad and Happy Belated Memorial Day!!! Boy is it starting to get hot here! We've had a number of days well into the triple digits here before the first day of June. Despite the increasing heat, Headhunter soldiers are continuing to excel here in support of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division. We welcomed another batch of new soldiers that reported for duty here in Iraq with HHC in mid-May and we look forward to welcoming C CO, TUAV PLT to our deployed family in the near future.

We are still fighting some power problems here and will more than likely continue to do so until the dog days of summer are behind us. There are simply too many soldiers and facilities here....all in need of energy sucking air conditioners, and not enough juice to go around. Additional power stations are due to come on line in the future and until then we are doing the best we can with two power outages a day for a total of about 4 hours.

A special thanks to all of you who participated in the VTC on the home-front. It made my day to be able to watch the soldiers on this end come out of the tent with HUGE grins on their faces. Thanks also for your patience with some of the delays. We'll definitely get that on the schedule again here in the future.

Absent the power issues, improvements to the quality of life for our soldiers continue. Our Headhunter soldiers who work in the BN TOC at the Division Headquarters have moved out of the Expando Van, and into the new Division Headquarters Building. If you can imagine at the circus when you have about 15 performers crammed into that tiny car...well that's what life has been like for the soldiers working in the expando. On a number of occasions I've seen MAJ Liebe turn to LTC Ballard whose desk is about a foot away in the expando and ask, "Are you sure you're showering sir?" Of course I am kidding...kind of...but I'm sure you all get the picture. So life in the BN TOC is much happier.

Unfortunately, our ACE soldiers are still working out of the DRASH tent. It looks as though it will be quite some time until engineers here to complete the new ACE facility in the Division HQ. Our ACE soldiers are slowly moving the DRASH from its present location over to the new building location so as to set the whole circus tent up again next to the new building. The fact that these soldiers are able to execute the move while continuing to run intelligence operations and analysis is amazing. On a good note, the new dining facility for the Division Troops living area, which includes the ACE, is now operational and a new gym is

being built across the street from the new Division Headquarters building.

The TUAV personnel in TAJI are continuing fly in support of the Division and are also slowly seeing some improvements. I am very happy to say that all of our TUAV soldiers are now more comfortably living in trailers similar to those we have at Camp Victory. While it's still not home, it's better than the old Iraqi building they were crammed into before.

The personnel at the ALOC (S1, S4, S6, C&E, Maint, Company HQ, DFAC) are slowly getting used to a fairly steady battle rhythm here in the Battalion Headquarters. We are on the road quite a bit supporting the various far flung intelligence sites and are proud to have successfully passed the 50 mission mark. The only other excitement we've had here was a confrontation that SPC Been and PFC Woroniecki had with a camel spider in the work out tent. The spider of course gets larger and larger each time Worno tells the story...but the gist of the tale had PFC Worno throwing a ten pound weight on top of the spider, the spider crawling out from the weight and bench pressing the ten pounds for a set, running the boys out of the tent in fright like a couple of little kids, and then moving on his merry way none the worse for wear. It was a pretty big spider!

The mid-tour leave is still very much up in the air. The goal is still to allow each soldier to take his or her environmental leave, but whether we will be able to attain that goal is still unanswerable. We are sending three soldiers on leave in early June and hope to have a larger allocation for the end of June with a more regular schedule established starting in July. I will provide more info to you as I get it. The 1SG and I promise to do our best to accommodate you and your spouse's wishes as far as when you want to enjoy your well earned R&R, but because of the inconsistency in the number of leave slots allocated to each battalion, we won't be able to get everyone home when they want to...remember, getting the leave is the primary goal, getting the time slot you want is just the gravy. Thanks in advance for your understanding and patience with this. I know how frustrating uncertainty can be.

Thanks again to all of you who have donated so much time and effort there on the homefront. On a personal note, I feel so much better knowing that you are all there to take care of my own family. As Kristen gets closer to the birth of our daughter in August (I got to see the belly on the VTC) it is comforting to know that we have built a solid FRG family that takes care of our own. The 1SG and I are immensely proud of Commanding these fine soldiers here in Iraq, but we are equally proud of all you do at home. Thank You and God Bless!

Dan Bishop      Anthony Torres  
 "Headhunter 6"   "Headhunter 9"

### **Kristen's Corner**

Thank you to Dee Dee Mize for helping me at the last minute last month with watching our sister unit's children during their FRG meeting. It is wonderful to have people like you that I know I can rely on.

Thank you to Janice Maddox, the mother of CPL Santarone, for orchestrating a mass shipment of baked goods to our soldiers this month. And thank you to all the family members that have been sending over mail for the soldiers. It is such a boost to morale to hear your name called in formation, to receive a piece of home. Thank you for helping to keep the spirits as bright as we can.

Thank you to Connie Randall who went out of her way to help me to deliver tshirts and magnets in the local area. I love that our FRG is becoming so much more of a family of people helping each other, instead of something that is merely run by one or two people.

Thank you CPT McIntire and the Rear Detachment NCOs that helped us during our Video Teleconference with our soldiers on May 23rd. I know the 7 minutes went fast but I hope you all enjoyed that time with your spouse as much as I did. I apologize for the time slots getting backed up. Thank you all for your patience and understanding. The next time we get this on the calendar, I know that we will need to allow more transition time between families and hopefully we will not get so far behind schedule.

Thank you to Tonnia Phelps for being our Company FRG photographer over the last 3 months. Have a wonderful vacation. Mrs. Kim Smith will be taking over from Tonnia for the summer. Thank you so much for volunteering Kim!

I have been forewarned by other FRG leaders that around the 90 day mark of a deployment, the soldiers and families go through a bit of depression. Please remember this is normal. If you get a curt email or letter or phone call from your soldier or your spouse or your child, please just try to remember the pressure we are all under during this time apart from one another. Army Chaplains are wonderful resources. There is a Chaplains hotline at (254)287-2427, if you feel the need to speak to someone. Please do not hesitate to call me if you would like to talk either. It is a very real need we all have, to speak to others that are going through similar life events.

Don't forget to check the battalion web site. We will be updating it weekly throughout June with photos of the soldiers in Iraq.

[http://www.hood.army.mil/1CD\\_312/thmibn/312%20BN%20FRG.htm](http://www.hood.army.mil/1CD_312/thmibn/312%20BN%20FRG.htm)

There have been a lot families leaving the area for summer vacations. PLEASE remember to update me with a phone number AND address where you will be. This is not merely for people in the Fort Hood area. If you are a soldier's Next of Kin, I MUST have up to date information.

PLEASE BE FORE-WARNED: CPT McIntire has a copy of the DD93's (Next of Kin notification papers) on file and

many do not match the addresses or phone numbers that I have been provided by all our families. So, CPT McIntire and SFC Lloyd may call a couple of numbers a week (from the Army's DD93) to confirm the addresses and phone numbers. This is a recommendation made by the Division Rear Detachment Commander. I am letting you all know this so that you do not panic if you receive a phone call from either of them. There is nothing wrong, she just wants to confirm the data she has on file and promises not to take up much of your time.

B Company has set up a Battalion level Self care class that I would like to offer to our FRG members. This is a great class. I took it when it was 4 hours long. This version is only 1 hour with all the same benefits. Once you attend this class, you are given an over the counter medication card to get medicines for you and your family. Everything is free. This adds up to a tremendous savings over time. Sooo... NO FRG MEETING ON JUNE 8th. I hope to see many of you on the 18th!!

-Kristen Bishop (FRG Leader)

### **Community and Unit Calendar**

**July 8-11. Frank Erwin Center.** Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® Circus. Call Texas Box Office at 512/477-6060 or 1-800-982-2386

**June 11-** Seafood Splurge, 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a variety of seafood dishes, including steamed shrimp, salmon, chowder, baked and fried fish, seafood pasta salad and many side dishes to choose from. Dessert is also included. \$24.95 for

adults, members receive an additional discount. Call for reservations.

**June 14:** Division Run to celebrate the Army's Birthday. Bring your stroller and kids, and dogs, on leashes and run/walk with us. We will meet in front of DIV HQ, near the helicopter at 6:45 a.m.

Following the run/walk there will be cake and juice served.

### **WEAR YOUR UNIT T-SHIRTS IF YOU'VE GOT ONE!!**

**June 18:** 6-7pm. Battalion FRG Class for Self-Care program. Soldier and Family Readiness Center, corner of 75th and Old Ironsides.

**June 18-** Summer Pool Party- Open to everyone! Enjoy live music from rock band *Frayed* at 7p.m. Free hot dogs and chips will be available for all, and games like limbo and twister will get the party started. Stay late and sing karaoke with DJ Hawk, inside Legends Pub.

**June 20-** Father's Day Brunch 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grande Ballroom. Treat that special man in your life to a special Sunday Brunch. He'll love the waffle and omelet bars, the excellent choice of breakfast and lunch foods, carved steamship round, salad, desserts and much more. Only \$12.95 for adults, \$5.50 for kids 6-12, and \$2.50 for kids under 5. Call for reservations.

**July 4: Freedom Fest Celebration** at Hood Stadium. Enjoy patriotic music, static displays, fabulous food, volksmarch, carnival, a variety of games, activities and entertainment, concert, parachute jumper, Air force flyover, flag ceremony followed by 45 minutes of breathtaking fireworks. 287-0337 Register

online for the 5 & 10 K run and the 10 k walk to be held on July 3, 2004.

**July 12:** HHC FRG meeting at Family Readiness Center.

**August 14: BLORA End of Summer Bash.** We have reserved the Cedar Grove Pavilion, located directly in between the water slides and the lake for swimming. There will be games, a bouncey house, a popcorn machine, and a cotton candy machine. Come join us!!

### **Treasury and Fundraising**

The 312th MI Battalion magnets are sold out. In an effort to get a magnet for each family that wants one, I ordered some that say 'Pray for our Troops'. They have the CAV patch at the bottom of the opposite tail. I only ordered 25 and they are almost gone, but if you would like one let me know and I can always order more. If you pre-ordered a magnet or tshirt and have already paid for them, I sent out your order on Tuesday June 1st.

### **IRAQ MAIL:**

I understand that some of the soldier's mail to Taji has been returned to sender. After research, please change the Taji soldier's address to the one below. This should correct the problem.

### **The address for soldiers in the UAV platoon in Taji is:**

Rank, Last Name, First Name  
4th Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division  
B CO, 312 MI Battalion, TUAV PLT  
APO AE 09313

### **The address for soldiers in Baghdad/Victory North (HHC):**

Rank, Last Name, First Name  
HHC, 312 MI BN (1st CAV DIV)  
APO AE 09344

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

Please welcome the Companies newest additions. SPC and Mrs. Cuellar of the Ace are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Chasity Virginia Cuellar, who was born May 4th. SGT and Mrs. Hill of the Ace proudly announce the birth of their son, Ethan Scott Hill, born May 7th.

## **Miscellaneous INFORMATION**

**FINANCE:** If your soldier is deployed overseas, and you have pay questions: Contact the Finance Representative at the Family Assistance Center in the Rivers Building - Mon-Fri 0800-1700 (closed for Federal & Post Training Holidays) The phone number is (254) 288-9747. Specific questions regarding individual pay accounts cannot be answered over the phone. If you come in person, you will need your Power of Attorney and ID card. The Finance Rep can tell you what other documents you may need depending on the questions you have.

**LEGAL:** III Corps Legal Assistance Office New Appointment Procedures In order to better serve the community, the III Corps Legal Assistance Office will begin a new procedure for scheduling appointments. Starting on May 3, 2004, you will no longer have to wait in line at 0900 to make an appointment. Instead, you may call 287-7901 or 287-3199 to schedule an appointment with a Legal Assistance Attorney. Appointments may be made for up to two weeks in advance. Wednesdays will

continue to be reserved for individuals seeking to have their wills drafted. Mon, Tues and Thurs are available for all other Legal Assistance issues. The office will be closed on Fridays for training. Clients seeking legal assistance for emergency situations will be seen on walk-in basis. Clients seeking a Power of Attorney will be served on a walk-in basis on Monday - Thursday, from 0900 - 1600 hours. If you have any questions regarding the new appointment procedures, please call us at 287-7901/3199.

**READING:** This summer, Casey Library will have summer reading clubs for all ages. Our clubs include:

Children: 'Color Your World...Read' (for ages Pre-K thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade in the fall; meets Wed 10am from June2-July 7)

Teens: 'Books Make It Possible...Read' (for grades 7-12 in the fall; no meetings; register & read at your convenience; for each book read, you may enter your name in the prize drawings for teens to be held on 16 July)

Adults: 'Join the Winner's Circle...Read' (No formal meetings; register and read at your convenience; for each book read, you may enter your name in the prize drawings for adults to be held on 16 July)

Pre-registration is now open. Even if you are going to be on leave for part of the summer, we invite you to sign up & participate when you're here. For more info, call 287-4921 or stop by Casey Library.

## **SUMMER FUN ACTIVITY:**

**Sweet Berry Farms:** U-pick Strawberries and Blackberries and U-dig potatoes.

The Strawberries are \$1.99 per pound, the Blackberries are \$2.25 per pound. The boxes cost 50 cents each. Potatoes - 89 cents per pound. The 'Texas' Maze - \$4 per person, children 6 and under are free but MUST be accompanied by an adult. Directions: Take 190 out of Copperas Cove to 281 South to Marble Falls. Once in Marble Falls, stay in the right lane. When you get to the 281/1431 intersection (Pizza Hut will be on your right), take a right(1431 West). Take 1431 West approximately 2 miles. There will be a traffic light at the intersection of 1431/FM 1980. Take a right onto FM 1980. Go approx. 1.5 miles and the farm will be on your right. (About 1 1/2 hours away, but LOTS of fun)

**POST SWIMMING:** Outdoor Pools: Comanche Pool: 287-7544 Daily 11 a.m. to 8 p.m., located behind Comanche Chapel and Child Development center. West Fort Hood Pool: 288-9838 Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., located on Clarke Road and Headquarters Street on West Fort Hood. Martin Pool: 287-5073, Wednesday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., located on Hood Road near Fort Hood National Bank.

## **NEWSLETTER**

Have something to add to the newsletter? An idea on how to make it better? Please contact me by June 30th.

POC: Kristen Bishop

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